

AUG 29 2016

EPA-REGION 10

US EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
805 SW Broadway  
Suite 500  
Portland, OR 97205

The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cleanup plan for the Willamette River in Portland will do more harm than good. I think that if the federal government comes here and imposes their will to fix the problems by dredging the river, it will be bad for the local environment and the local economy. Problems with the Willamette go back for decades, to the 1980s. I believe that it would be best for the federal government to go back after the original polluters, such as companies that produced creosote logs further up the river. They should be stopped from any further polluting and should have to pay for the cleanup of all these earlier problems. Portland taxpayers should not be responsible for bearing this burden as the proposed EPA plan would require.

The City of Portland needs to be able to fix its own problems first, with the federal government staying out of it except for enforcing previous environmental laws enacted to stop earlier polluters. The Willamette is being used both for recreation and commercial purposes now. I think this part of the river should be left alone. The EPA's plan will be very expensive and could turn out just like the Columbia River Crossing project to widen the bridge crossing over the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington. They spent hundreds of millions of dollars in consulting fees and wasted public money and got nowhere. I'm afraid the EPA's plan might turn out that same way.

We get warned when there is storm water runoff that might be toxic when the river is high, so why would we want to start digging up the bottom of the river? It has its own filtration system built in by nature. You're not going to find anything better than that; you're just going to create more issues, environmental and financial. It'll adversely affect everyone and everything across the board. Taxes will go up and it will eventually affect everyone in the Portland area. Money would be better spent going after earlier polluters and resolving those issues. Time will heal the rest of the Willamette River's problems if we just give it the chance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Portland, OR 97236